

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for manufacturing a distal protection element for preventing emboli in a blood vessel from moving away from a treatment site during a vascular procedure, the method comprising:

braiding a plurality of filaments to form an enclosure having a wall thickness;

forming the braided enclosure to have a first end region and a second end region, each of the first and second end regions having a taper region and a neck region adapted for attachment to a guidewire; and

reducing the wall thickness of the enclosure along at least a portion of the first end region.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: heat treating the filaments of the braided distal protection element.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of claim 2, wherein the heat treating step is performed prior to the reducing step.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the heat treating step is performed after the reducing step.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the distal protection element is a capture element.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the distal protection element is an occluder.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises electropolishing at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises etching at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the etching step is selected from the group consisting of photo etching, chemical etching and laser etching.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises acid pickling at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 12 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises mechanically grinding at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 13 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises cutting and removing a portion of at least one of the filaments along the first end region.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise nitinol wires.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 16 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the reducing step comprises removing an outer casing of at least one of the drawn-filled tubing wires along at least a portion of the wire.

Claim 17 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the reducing step further comprises etching a core of at least one of the drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise a combination of nitinol wires and drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments are made of material selected from the group consisting of metal, thermoplastic polymer, thermoset polymer, ceramics and glass.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step creates a gradual decrease in the wall thickness along at least a portion of the first end region.

Claim 21 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step creates a stepped profile in the wall thickness along at least a portion of the first end region.

Claim 22 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step involves removing material from the first end region in a spiral pattern.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step involves removing material from the first end region in a longitudinally striped pattern.

Claims 24, 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (withdrawn, previously presented): A distal protection device for preventing emboli in a blood vessel from moving away from a treatment site during a vascular procedure, the distal protection device comprising:

a distal protection element comprising an enclosure having a first end region and a second end region, each of the first and second end regions having a taper region and a neck region adapted for attachment to a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the first end region has a wall thickness comparatively less than a wall thickness of the enclosure between the first and second end regions.

Claim 27 (withdrawn, previously presented): The distal protection device of claim 26, wherein a marker band is disposed around at least one of the first and second neck regions.

Claim 28 (withdrawn, previously presented): The distal protection device of claim 26, wherein the enclosure is comprised of filaments.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 28, wherein the filaments are made of a material selected from the group consisting of metal, thermoplastic polymer, thermoset polymer, ceramics and glass.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 29, wherein the filaments comprise nitinol wires.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 29, wherein the filaments comprise drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The distal protection device of claim 29, wherein the filaments comprise a combination of nitinol wires and drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 33 (withdrawn, previously presented): The distal protection device of claim 28, wherein the portion of the first end region having comparatively less wall thickness comprises a portion of at least one of the filaments having a reduced thickness.

Claims 34-36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (withdrawn, previously presented): The distal protection device of claim 26, wherein the portion of the first end region having comparatively less wall thickness comprises a smooth taper.

Claim 38 (withdrawn, previously presented): The distal protection device of claim 26, wherein the portion of the first end region having comparatively less wall thickness comprises one or more steps.

Claim 39 (withdrawn, previously presented): The distal protection device of claim 26 further comprising:

a guidewire, wherein the neck regions of the distal protection element are attached to a distal end of the guidewire.

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (withdrawn, previously presented): The distal protection device of claim 26 further comprising:

at least a portion of the second end region has a wall thickness comparatively less than the wall thickness of the enclosure between the first and second end regions.